### Report on the

# **Board for Registration of Architects**

Montgomery, Alabama



# Department of Examiners of Public Accounts

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## **State of Alabama**

Department of

## **Examiners of Public Accounts**

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June 15, 2022

Representative Howard Sanderford Chairman, Sunset Committee Alabama State House Montgomery, AL 36130

Dear Representative Sanderford,

This report was prepared to provide information for use by the Sunset Committee in conducting its review and evaluation of the operations of the Alabama Board of Registration for Architects in accordance with the *Code of Alabama 1975*, Section 41-20-9.

The report contains unaudited information obtained from the management, staff, and records of the Alabama Board of Registration for Architects, in addition to information obtained from other sources.

Please contact me if you have any questions concerning this report.

Sincerely,

Rachel Laurie Riddle

Rachel Jamie Riddle

Chief Examiner

**Examiner** 

Gerald Dedon

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# **PROFILE**

# Purpose/Authority

The Board for Registration of Architects was created in 1979 to license and regulate the profession of architecture in Alabama. The Board's registration procedures are in accordance with standards set forth by the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB) and by the Board. The Board's enabling statutes are found in the *Code of Alabama 1975*, Section 34-2-30 through 34-2-42.

<u>Characteristics</u>	
Members and Selection	Six members appointed by the Governor.  Each vacancy is filled by appointment by the Governor from a list of three persons selected by a nominating committee. The nominating committee is comprised of six registered architects from the geographical district entitled to fill the vacancy.  Code of Alabama 1975, Section 34-2-38
Term	Four-year terms.  Members continue to serve until their successors are appointed and qualified.  No term limits.  Code of Alabama 1975, Section 34-2-38(3)
Qualifications	<ul> <li>Registered and licensed architects.</li> <li>Each member must reside and have his or her principal office in the district from which appointed.</li> <li>Code of Alabama 1975, Section 34-2-38(1) &amp; (4)</li> </ul>
Consumer Representation	No statutory requirement.
Racial Representation	No statutory requirement. One minority member serving.

Geographical	One member from the northern district.	
_ <u> </u>		
Representation	Two members from the north central district.	
	Two from the central district.	
	One from the southern district.	
	Code of Alabama 1975, Section 34-2-38(1)	
Other Representation	The membership of the Board should be inclusive and should reflect the racial, gender, geographic, urban/rural, and economic diversity of the state.	
	Code of Alabama 1975, Section 34-2-38(2)	
Compensation	\$200 for each day the Board member attends meetings as a representative of the board.	
	Each member of the board shall receive reimbursement of necessary travel expenses at the same rate as state employees.	
	Code of Alabama 1975, Section 34-2-41 Administrative Rule 100-X-105	
Attended Board	Six current Board members	
Member Training	Two former Board members	
Wember Haming	Two staff members	
	Executive Director	
	Legal Counsel	
<u>Operations</u>		
Administrator	Paula Pilgreen, Executive Director, Appointed by the Board. Current annual salary - \$77,892.00. Set by the Board and approved by the governor.	
Location	100 North Union Street, Suite 390	
	Montgomery, AL 36130-4450	
	Office Hours: Monday through Friday 8:00 am to 4:00	
	pm.	
Employees	3	
Legal Counsel	Tara Hetzel, Assistant Attorney General, employee of the	
-9	Attorney General's Office.	
Subpoena Power	Yes, both witnesses and records.	
	<i>Code of Alabama 1975</i> , Section 34-2-39(b)	

<b>Internet Presence</b>	www.boa.alabama.gov		
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<u>Financial</u>			
Source of Funds	Licensing fees, fines, and penalties	S.	
State Treasury	Yes, Special Revenue Fund 0353.		
	Code of Alabama 1975, Section 3	4-2-41	
Required Distributions	None.		
<b>Unused Funds</b>	The Board retains unused funds at fiscal year-end.		
Licensee Information			
Licensees	As of January 13, 2022		
	Licensed Architects		
	In-State	847	
	Out-of-State	2,238	
	Certificates of Authorization	915	
	Total	4,000	
	Source: Executive Director		
Qualifications	<ul> <li>Graduation from a school or college of architecture accredited by the National Architectural Accrediting Board.</li> <li>Pass the professional examination.</li> </ul>		
	<ul> <li>Period of practical experience in architectural work under the responsible control of a registered architect.</li> </ul>		
	Code of Alabama 1975, Section 3-	4-2-33	

Examinations	The Architect Registration Exam (ARE), is a national computerized exam developed by the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB). The exam is administered by Prometric Learning Centers throughout the United States and Canada.  Exams are given on a continual basis at testing centers in Birmingham, Dothan, Huntsville, Mobile, and Montgomery six days a week. Applicants pay exam fees directly to NCARB.  There are six divisions to the examination: Project Planning & Design; Programming & Analysis; Project Development & Documentation; Project Management; Practice Management; and Construction & Evaluation.				
	Pass/Fai	l Rates by Nu	mber of Divis	ions Taken	
	Year	# Taken	# Passed	% Passed	
	2018 189 111 59%				
	2019	221	133	60%	_
	2020/2021 277 157 57%				
	Source: Execute Pass Percenta Institutions ar	utive Director ges per Divisi	ons by Educa		
Reciprocity	The Board n examination, provided the issued to hi Architectural	a certificate of applicant hom or her begistration E	of registration olds an unex y the Natio Boards (NCAI	as an archite pired certific nal Council	ect, ate
Renewals	Licenses expire annually on December 31. Licenses are invalid if not renewed by December 31. Registration lapses if not renewed by March 31.  92% renewals performed online.  Code of Alabama 1975, Section 34-2-33				
Licensee Demographics	Data not colle				

<b>Continuing Education</b>	12 hours each calendar year.
	Code of Alabama 1975, Section 34-2-39(e) Administrative Rule 100-X-303

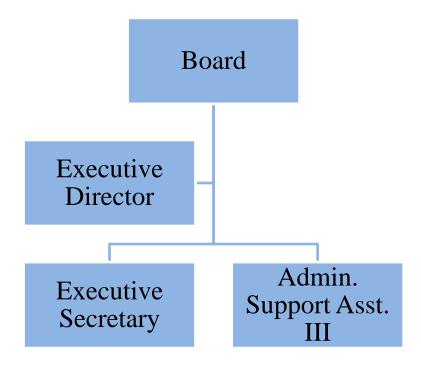
# **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

No new significant issues.

# **STATUS OF PRIOR FINDINGS/SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

All prior findings/significant issues have been resolved.

# **ORGANIZATION**



# **PERSONNEL**

Classification	#	W/F	Salary
Executive Director	1	1	\$77,892.00
Executive Secretary	1	1	\$63,780.00
Administrative Support Assistant III	1	1	\$46,442.40
Total	3	3	

W/F=white female

#### **Legal Counsel**

Tara Hetzel, Assistant Attorney General, an employee of the Attorney General's office, provides legal counsel to the board.

# PERFORMANCE CHARACTERISTICS

Operating Disbursements per Licensee/Certificate of Authorization (FY 2021) - \$106.35

Number of Employees per Licensee/Certificate of Authorization - 1,333

#### Fines/Penalties as a % of Operating Receipts

	FY 2021	FY 2020	FY 2019	FY 2018
Total Receipts	\$ 534,265.00	\$ 494,263.15	\$504,535.20	\$ 495,299.99
Total Fines	9,475.00	1,350.67	7,200.00	7,750.00
Percentage	1.77%	0.27%	1.43%	1.56%

#### Notification of Board decisions to Amend Administrative Rules

The Board complied with notification procedures prescribed in the Administrative Procedure Act, which includes publication of proposed rules in the Administrative Monthly, and public hearings on proposed rules. Licensees are not specifically notified of proposed changes.

# **COMPLAINT HANDLING**

The *Code of Alabama 1975*, Section 34-2-36, and *Administrative Rules* 100-X-6-.01 through 100-X-6-.05 provide procedures for receipt, documentation and investigation of complaints against licensees and disciplinary actions.

<b>Initial Contact/Documentation</b>	All complaints must be made in writing.
	Complaints may be mailed, faxed, or e-mailed to
	the Board's Executive Director, or by utilizing
	the Board's on-line complaint form. Complaints

	must contain a detailed factual summary of the issue along with supporting documentation, such as contracts, invoices, correspondence, letterhead, business cards, construction documents, photos, etc. The complainant is notified by letter when the complaint is received.	
<b>Anonymous Complaints</b>	Yes	
<b>Investigative Process / Probable</b>	The complaint is referred to the Probable Cause	
<b>Cause Determination</b>	Committee consisting of the Executive director,	
	a Board member and the Board's legal counsel. The Probable Cause Committee determines if there is probable cause to investigate the complaint.  The investigating Board member is no longer involved in the complaint, except as a witness.	
Negotiated Settlements	Yes	
<b>Notification of Resolution to the</b>	Complainants are notified by mail	
Complainant		

Source: Executive Director

Schedule of Complaints Resolved Fiscal Years 2018 through 2021					
Year/Number		Year/Numb	er Resolved		Dandina
Received	2018	2019	2020	2021	Pending
2018/1		1			
2019/1		1			
2020/1					1
2021/7				4	3
Source: Board staff					

**<u>Average Time to Resolve Complaints</u>** – 136 days

 $\underline{\textbf{Disposition of Resolved Complaints}} - All \ six \ resolved \ complaints \ were \ by \ a \ consent \ agreement \ and \ a \ fine.$ 

# **REGULATION IN CONJUNCTION WITH OTHER ENTITIES**

Architectural services are not regulated by any other state or federal entity.

# FINANCIAL INFORMATION

#### **Source of Funds**

Licensee fees, fines, and penalties

#### **Fund**

The Board operates from Special Revenue Fund 0353 in the State Treasury. Year-end balances are retained for the Board's continuous use subject to appropriations.

The *Code of Alabama 1975*, Section 34-2-41 provides that the Board may make donations from its surplus funds to any state educational institution which has an accredited school of architecture for assistance in promoting education and research programs in architecture. The Board awarded grants to the following universities:

	20	17 - 2018	20	18 - 2019	20	19 - 2020	20	20 - 2021
Auburn University	\$	58,745.00	\$	63,005.00	\$	13,040.00	\$	50,410.00
Tuskegee University		16,280.00		17,070.00		0.00		13,900.00
Total	\$	75,025.00	\$	80,075.00	\$	13,040.00	\$	64,310.00

# **Schedule of Fees**

Fees are set in the Board's *Administrative Rule* 100-X-1-.14(7)

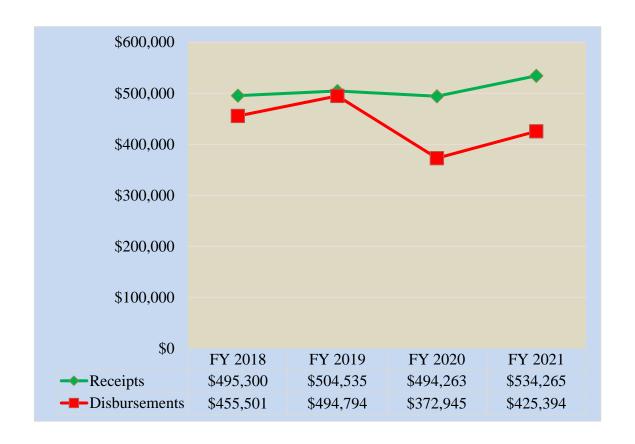
	Statutory	Amount	Amount
Fee Type/Purpose	Authority	Authorized	Collected
A.R.E Application Fee	33-2-33 (a)	≤ \$250.00	\$10.00
NCARB Reciprocal Registration Fee	33-2-33 (a)	≤ \$250.00	\$150.00
Reinstatement Application Fee*	33-2-33 (g)	\$250.00	\$460.00*
Renewal Fee	33-2-33 (f)	≤ \$250.00	\$135.00
Late Fee	33-2-33 (f)	\$75.00	\$75.00
Certificate of Authorization Fee	33-2-37 (a)(5)	≤ \$250.00	\$75.00
Certificate Replacement Fee	Cost Recovery	N/A	\$25.00
Printing Fee for Roster	Cost Recovery	N/A	\$10.00
Mailing Labels	Cost Recovery	N/A	\$25.00
Mailing Lists on Electronic Media	Cost Recovery	N/A	\$25.00
Returned Check Fee	8-8-15	≤\$30.00	\$30.00

<sup>\*</sup>Includes \$250.00 reinstatement fee, \$135.00 renewal fee, and \$75.00 late fee.

# Schedule of Receipts, Disbursements and Balances October 1, 2017 through September 30, 2021

	2020-2021	2019-2020	2018-2019	2017-2018
Receipts				
Licensing Fees	\$ 524,710.00	\$ 489,220.00	\$ 497,285.00	\$ 487,305.00
Licensing Registration Lists	50.00	3,605.00	50.00	125.00
Penalties	9,475.00	1,350.67	7,200.00	7,750.00
Prior Year Refunds	-	-	0.10	-
Bad Check Penalties	30.00	30.00	-	60.00
Court Ordered Settlements	-	-	-	59.02
Salvage Equipment	-	57.48	0.10	0.97
Total	534,265.00	494,263.15	504,535.20	495,299.99
Disbursements				
Personnel Costs	195,989.80	172,164.13	199,462.52	190,191.38
Employee Benefits	65,160.11	66,795.14	73,484.76	71,102.26
Travel, In-State	7,432.16	3,809.22	13,135.68	5,949.98
Travel, Out-of-State	-	6,307.17	17,740.31	7,410.90
Repair and Maintenance	840.00	472.50	1,899.23	838.71
Rentals and Leases	45,203.23	42,507.01	45,321.85	31,922.95
Utilities and Communication	9,436.11	8,817.10	8,329.62	6,027.49
Professional Services	17,008.62	33,902.74	12,385.17	42,752.39
Supplies, Materials, and Operating Expenses	17,642.17	23,234.99	29,836.52	20,387.27
Transportation Equipment Operations	971.14	78.75	302.37	47.50
Grants and Benefits	64,310.00	13,040.00	80,075.00	75,025.00
Other Equipment Purchases	1,400.20	1,815.84	12,821.29	3,845.54
Total	425,393.54	372,944.59	494,794.32	455,501.37
Excess of Receipts over Disbursements	108,871.46	121,318.56	9,740.88	39,798.62
Cash Balances at Beginning of Year	404,281.66	282,963.10	273,222.22	233,423.60
Cash Balances at End of Year	513,153.12	404,281.66	282,963.10	273,222.22
Reserve for Unpaid Obligations	(14,542.01)	(7,151.62)	(8,459.95)	(14,140.15)
Unobligated Cash Balance at Year End	\$ 498,611.11	\$ 397,130.04	\$ 274,503.15	\$ 259,082.07

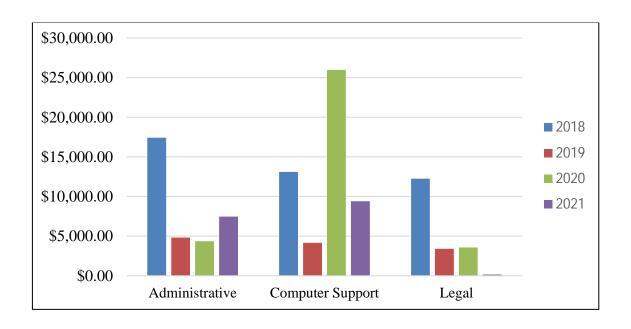
# Operating Receipts vs. Operating Disbursements



SUMMARY SCHEDULE OF PROFESSIONAL SERVICE DISBURSEMENTS*					
	As of September 30 <sup>th</sup>				
Type of Service	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	
Computer Support	\$ 13,105.38	\$ 4,160.89	\$ 25,981.43	\$ 9,403.93	
Legal	12,240.00	3,405.00	3,570.00	150.00	
Administrative	17,407.01	4,819.28	4,351.31	7,454.69	
Total	\$42,752.39	\$ 12,385.17	\$ 33,902.74	\$ 17,008.62	

<sup>\*</sup>Detailed information presented in the appendix

## **Professional Service Disbursement Chart**



# **QUESTIONNAIRES**

### **Board Member Questionnaire**

A letter was sent to all six members of the Board of Architects requesting participation in the survey. Three participated in the survey. The percentages, where shown, are based on the number who responded to the question.

# 1. What are the most significant issues currently facing the Board of Architects and how is the Board addressing these issues?

**Board Member #1** - "Over the past several years, there have not been any significant issues facing the Board. One minor issue, which is ongoing, is the increased number of architects who refuse to complete Continuing Education requirements each year. It seems they would rather pay fines than pay to complete CEs. The Board has discussed the possibility of raising fines and ramping up the number of audits. The Board is currently evaluating CE brokers to assist with audits, as well as raise awareness."

**Board Member #2** - "Architects doing engineering and vice versa engineers doing architecture. Working closely with the engineer's board, building officials to coordinate enforcement of our laws. Participation in professional conferences, providing information directly to practitioners to avoid violations before they occur. We are also employing new software to streamline the documentation of violations, continuing education and general registration information."

**Board Member #3** - "The recent legislation that limited the Building Commission's oversight of some education facilities is particularly troublesome. Clearly this legislation puts the citizens of the State of Alabama at risk in areas of health, safety, and welfare. The board has spoken against this legislation and has cooperated with the State Fire Marshall, the AIA, and the Engineers Board and other groups to oppose this legislation. Unfortunately to no avail."

#### 2. What changes, if any, to the Board's law are needed?

**Board Member #1** - "In paragraph 32-2-41, it states the Board may make donations from its surplus funds to any state educational institution which has an accredited school of architecture. The Board currently exercises this opportunity each year to Tuskegee and Auburn University. I would like to expand these options by providing financial assistance to emerging professionals, who decide to reside in this state, while taking their exams."

Board Member #2 - "In times of emergency some flexibility to meet virtually."

**Board Member #3** - "It would be most helpful if the Board could meet virtually when pandemics such as Covid-19 occur. The current law precludes that from happening. This caused delays regarding Board review of several timely issues."

#### **Board Member Questionnaire**

3. Is the Board adequately funded?

**Yes 2 67%** No 1 33%

4. Is the Board adequately staffed?

Yes 3 100%

5. Does the Board receive regular reports on the operations of the board from the chief administrative officer?

**Yes 2 67%** No 1 33%

6. Has the Board experienced any significant changes to its operations?

Yes 1 33% No 2 67%

7. Does the Board plan any significant changes in its operations?

Yes 1 33% No 2 67%

8. Do you have any other comments you wish to make?

**Board Member #1** - "We have an outstanding staff that is focused on customer service and protecting the health, safety, and welfare of all the citizens of Alabama. I believe our Board operation is the best in the United States."

**Board Member #2** - "I have served on the Board since 2019 and am pleased to report that the current Board make-up is the absolute best that I have observed during my 13-year tenure. All are committed to their responsibilities and work well together. Further, and importantly, we have an excellent executive director in Paula Pilgreen."

**Board Member #3** - "Our executive director, Paula Pilgreen, is doing an excellent job. She is worth her weight in gold."

# Licensee Questionnaire

A letter was sent to one hundred licensees requesting their participation in the survey. Twenty-two participated in the survey. The percentages, where shown, are based on the number who responded to the question.

1.	Do you think regulation of your profession by the Board of Architects is necessary to
	protect the public welfare?

Yes 22 100%

2. Do you think any of the Board's laws, rules, and policies are an unnecessary restriction on the practice of your profession?

Yes	1	5%
No	19	86%
No Opinion	2	9%

3. Do you think any of the Board's requirements are irrelevant to the competent practice of your profession?

Yes	2	9%
No	18	82%
No Opinion	2	9%

4. Are you adequately informed by the Board of changes to and interpretations of the Board's positions, policies, rules, and law?

Yes	18	82%
No	2	9%
No Opinion	2	9%

5. Did the Board perform your license renewal in a timely manner?

Yes 22 100%

6. Are you satisfied with your dealings with the Board?

Yes 22 100%

7. Do you consider continuing education necessary for the competent practice of your profession?

Yes	16	73%
No	5	23%
No Opinion	1	4%
		14

8. Do you think the Board and its staff are satisfactorily performing their duties?

**Yes** 18 82% No Opinion 4 18%

9. Did any member of the Board or its staff ask for money (other than normal fees) or any other thing of value in exchange for performing a Board service for you?

No 22 100%

10. What do you think is the most significant issue(s) currently facing your profession in Alabama and what is the Board doing to address the issue(s)?

**Respondent** #1 - "No issue of concern at present."

**Respondent** #2 - "Outdated state fee schedule – needs adjusting."

**Respondent** #3 - "Enforcing registration laws and taking action against those engaged in practice without AL registration."

Respondent #4 - "Awareness of what we do for the community at large."

**Respondent** #5 - "The availability of building materials, wrongful federal promotion of inflation and the illegal allocation of projects by race and/or gender are, in my opinion, the significant challenges facing our profession. Our Board for Registration does not and should not have any involvement in these issues and I do not know of any way they could influence or help with these."

**Respondent** #6 - "I cannot speak to this matter concisely."

**Respondent #7** - "Projects not requiring licensed architects."

**Respondent** #8 - "Although it may just appear this way, special interest groups attempting to dilute the practice of architecture by influencing the legislature not for noble reasons but to save money on project/construction costs while jeopardizing the health, safety and welfare of the public. The Board should spend additional time and resources to educate the legislators on what an architect does to protect the public."

**Respondent** #9 - "The profession, mostly through the AIA and related organizations have become social activist organizations favoring the Global Warming narrative, that global CO2 and the use of hydrocarbon fuels alone are somehow a planetary existential threat. Their narrative ignores the sun, sunspot activity, and other man-caused geoengineering activity affecting climate. They are mistaken. The Board should not assist their socialism, remaining neutral."

**Respondent** #10 - "The most significant issue is the lack of public education and enforcement of the building codes throughout all areas of the state. Many areas of the state lack a building official to provide accountability by reviewing plans and inspecting construction to verify that code minimums are being provided."

**Respondent** #11 - "Practice by unlicensed entities and misuse of the term architect. This is especially prevalent on internet sites and apps where architectural services are offered to the public, and most people don't suspect there will be a problem with hiring an architect like they'd shop for dog food, until it's too late."

**Respondent** #12 - "The most significant issues is the impact of inflation and supply-stream problems that are creating an unstable environment for construction. The budget impact on building owners is impossible to plan for and impact on schedules caused by product availability and delays are costing our owners delays in seeing their projects completed. However, in my opinion, this is not something that the Board is empowered to address"

**Respondent** #13 - "This may not even be a Board issue, but there are too many projects happening without the proper licensed individual involved or they bring someone in after the project design has been completed to "stamp."

Respondent #14 - "No answer."

**Respondent #15** - "Unlicensed practitioners, Catching them."

Respondent #16 - "No answer."

**Respondent** #17 - "Sustainability in design; protecting the scope of services of architects – our profession is built on the health, safety, and welfare of the general public. Any legislation that takes away from our experience and giving it to less qualified individuals is hurtful. AIA Alabama is very vocal about these issues and sends out newsletters regularly."

**Respondent #18** - "Fee undercuts by architects that are unqualified to do specialized projects."

**Respondent #19** - "Non-qualified people practicing architecture. The board receives information from architects and the public concerning the improper practice of architecture and investigates possible incidences for wrongdoing and stops such improper practices."

Respondent #20 – "No significant issues."

**Respondent** #21 - "Regulation is being passed that decrease the requirements for architect involvement and oversight. Particularly in single family and multi-family housing."

**Respondent** #22 - "2021 House Bill 220 was significantly detrimental to the Architects role protecting public health, safety, and welfare. I would have liked to have seen the Board take a stronger position in opposition to that bill. Now that it has passed, I would like to see the Board working to improve what can be improved in that law."

# **Complaint Questionnaire**

A letter was sent to six complainants requesting their participation in the survey. Five participated in the survey. The percentages, where shown, are based on the number who responded to the question.

1.	How was your complain	t filed w	ith the Board of Architects?		
	E-Mail	5	100%		
2.	Was receipt of your com	plaint a	cknowledged?		
	<b>Yes</b> No	<b>4</b> 1	<b>80%</b> 20%		
3.	If you answer to Question complaint did the board		"Yes", approximately how long after you filed your you?		
	Immediately Within 19 days	1 <b>4</b>	20% <b>80%</b>		
4.	Was the employee that contacted you knowledgeable and courteous?				
	<b>Both</b> Neither	<b>4</b> 1	<b>80%</b> 20%		
5.	Did the Board communi you?	cate the	results of the investigation into your compliant to		
	Yes	5	100%		
6.	Do you think the Board	did ever	ything it could to resolve your complaint?		
	<b>Yes</b> No	<b>4</b> 1	<b>80%</b> 20%		
7.	Were you satisfied with	your dea	alings with the Board?		
	Yes	4	80%		

20%

1

No

#### 8. Do you have any other comments about your experience with the Board?

**Complainant #1** - "Board took it upon themselves to be immediately one sided and did not take responsibility for their actions so the outcome was biased from the start."

Complainant #2 - "No further comment."

**Complainant** #3 - "The State Board of Architects does a good job in stopping unlicensed individuals from practicing Architecture. I wish there were stronger and more punitive fines that could be levied for such unlawful activities."

Complainant #4 - "Very courteous helpful and responsive."

Complainant #5 - "No other comments. Thank you."

# **APPENDICES**

## **Applicable Statutes**

#### **Section 34-2-30** Definitions.

For the purposes of this chapter, the following words and phrases shall have the meanings respectively ascribed by this section:

- (1) ARCHITECT. An individual who is legally qualified to practice architecture.
- (2) BUILDING. A structure consisting of foundation, walls, or supports and roof, with or without related components, systems, or other parts comprising a completed building ready for occupancy.
- (3) PRACTICE ARCHITECTURE or PRACTICING ARCHITECTURE. Performing or doing, or offering or attempting to do or perform any service, work, act, or thing within the scope of the practice of architecture. An individual shall be construed to hold himself or herself out as practicing architecture when, by verbal claim, sign, advertisement, letterhead, card, or any other way, the individual represents himself or herself to be an architect with or without qualifying adjective, or when he or she implies that he or she is an architect through the use of some other title.
- (4) PRACTICE OF ARCHITECTURE. When an individual holds himself or herself out as able to render or when the person does render any service by consultations, investigations, evaluations, preliminary studies, plans, specifications, contract documents, and a coordination of all factors concerning the design and observation of construction of buildings or any other service in connection with the design, observation, or construction of buildings located within the boundaries of the state, regardless of whether such services are performed in connection with one or all of these duties, or whether they are performed in person or as the directing head of an office or organization performing them.
- (5) RESPONSIBLE CONTROL. Control over all phases of the practice of architecture, including, but not limited to, control over and detailed knowledge of the content of technical submissions during their preparation as is ordinarily exercised by registered architects applying the required professional standard of care.

(Acts 1979, No. 79-676, p. 1198, §1; Act 2010-501, p. 796, §1; Act 2010-534, p. 894, §1.)

# <u>Section 34-2-31</u> Declaration of policy; chapter liberally construed; compliance with chapter required.

Architects and the practice of architecture are hereby declared to affect the public health, safety, and welfare and to be subject to regulation and control in the public interest. It is further declared to be a matter of public interest and concern that the architectural profession merit and receive the confidence of the public and that only qualified architects be permitted to practice architecture in the State of Alabama. All provisions of this chapter relating to the practice of architecture shall be liberally construed to carry out these objects and purposes.

In order to safeguard life, health and property, and to promote the public welfare, no person shall practice architecture in this state, or use the title "architect" or any title, sign, card, or device to indicate that such person is practicing architecture or is an architect unless such person shall thereafter comply with the provisions of this chapter.

(Acts 1979, No. 79-676, p. 1198, §2.)

# <u>Section 34-2-32</u> Registered architect's services required; employees; exemptions; interprofessional privileges between architects and professional engineers.

- (a) Nothing contained in this chapter shall prevent:
- (1) Employees of registered architects from acting under the instructions or responsible control of their employers; or,
- (2) The employment of on-site observers of the construction or alteration of buildings.
- (b) No person shall be required to register as an architect in order to make plans and specifications for or administer the erection, enlargement, or alteration of any building upon any farm for the use of any farmer, irrespective of the cost of such building, or any single family residence building or any utility works, structures, or building, provided that the person performing such architectural works is employed by an electric, gas, or telephone public utility regulated pursuant to the laws of Alabama or by a corporation affiliated with such utility, or of any other type building which has a total area of less than 2,500 square feet provided it is not intended for use as a school, church, auditorium, or other building intended for the assembly occupancy of people.
- (c) The services of a registered architect shall be required on all buildings except those hereinabove exempted and no official of this state or of any city, town, or county herein charged with the enforcement of laws, ordinances, or regulations relating to the construction or alteration of buildings, shall accept or approve any plans or specifications that are not so prepared.
- (d) Nothing in this chapter shall prevent registered professional engineers or their employees or subordinates under their responsible control from performing architectural services incidental to their engineering practice. Nothing in this chapter shall prevent registered architects or their employees or subordinates under their responsible control from performing engineering services incidental to their architectural practice.

No professional engineer shall practice architecture or use the designation architect or any terms derived therefrom unless that individual is registered pursuant to this chapter. No architect shall practice professional engineering or use the term engineer or any term derived therefrom unless that individual is also qualified and registered as an engineer.

(Acts 1979, No. 79-676, p. 1198, §3; Acts 1987, No. 87-544, p. 830, §3; Act 2010-501, p. 796, §1; Act 2010-534, p. 894, §1.)

#### Section 34-2-33 Registration; issuance of certificate; qualifications; renewal, etc.

(a) The board shall receive applications for registration as an architect only on forms prescribed and furnished by the board.

Upon receipt of the application and the payment of a fee, as established by the board, the fee in no event exceeding two hundred fifty dollars (\$250), the board shall promptly notify the applicant of examination requirements for registration, if applicable.

The board may contract with an independent testing agency to prepare, grade, or conduct the examination. If the board determines the applicant requires examination, the applicant shall pay the actual cost of the examination directly to the board-authorized testing agency.

- (b) The board may issue to an applicant without further examination, a certificate of registration as an architect, provided the applicant holds an unexpired certificate issued to him or her by the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards, hereinafter referred to as NCARB.
- (c) The following facts established in the application shall be regarded as prima facie evidence satisfactory to the board that the applicant is fully qualified to be examined for registration:

- (1) Graduation after a course of study of a length as the board shall by regulation determine from a school or college of architecture accredited by the National Architectural Accrediting Board, hereinafter referred to as NAAB; and
- (2) An additional period of practical experience in architectural work under the responsible control of a registered architect or architects as the board by regulation shall deem appropriate. Unless exempted, applicants shall take and pass the professional examination administered by the board or an independent testing agency approved by the board.
- (d) In determining the sufficiency of the qualifications of the applicant for registration, a majority vote of the members of the board shall be required.
- (e) Certificates for registration shall expire on December 31 following their issuance or renewal and shall become invalid on that day unless renewed.

Certificates of registrants who are or may be in the Armed Forces of the United States shall not expire until December 31 following the discharge or final separation of the registrant from the Armed Forces of the United States.

- (f) Renewal may be accomplished at any time prior to or during the month of December by the payment of a fee established by the board not to exceed two hundred fifty dollars (\$250).
- A penalty not to exceed the sum of seventy-five dollars (\$75) may be added to the renewal fee for failure to renew a certificate upon such terms and conditions as the board may by regulation determine. Failure to renew a certificate of registration by March 31 shall result in a lapse of registration.
- (g) A registrant whose certificate of registration has lapsed may have it reinstated, if in compliance with other relevant requirements, by filing a reinstatement application and paying, in addition to the appropriate renewal fee and late penalty, a reinstatement fee of two hundred fifty dollars (\$250).
- (h) There is hereby created, for renewal of certificate purposes, a status to be known as emeritus status architect, which shall apply to architects who have been registered for 10 consecutive years or longer, and who are 65 years of age or older, and who have retired from active practice. The annual renewal of registration for emeritus status shall be renewed without payment of a fee. If an emeritus status architect subsequently wishes to practice, he or she may do so without penalty by proper application to the board.

(Acts 1979, No. 79-676, p. 1198, §4; Acts 1987, No. 87-544, p. 830, §3; Acts 1991, No. 91-157, p. 201, §3; Acts 1995, No. 95-281, p. 514, §3, Act 99-159, p. 216, §3; Act 2010-501, p. 796, §1; Act 2010-534, p. 894, §1; Act 2015-96, §3.)

#### Section 34-2-34 Refusal, revocation, or suspension of certificate; grounds; hearing; appeal.

The board shall have the following disciplinary powers:

- (1) To issue reprimands to any licensee who violates any provision of this chapter or the rules and regulations of the board.
- (2) To levy administrative fines for serious violations of this chapter or the rules and regulations of the board of not more than \$5,000 for each day the violation continues, but in no event shall an administrative fine exceed \$25,000 total per violation.
- (3) To refuse to issue a certificate, to suspend a certificate for a definite period, or to revoke the certificate of registration of an architect who is found guilty of:
- a. Any fraud or deceit in obtaining a certificate of registration as determined by the board at a hearing;
- b. Gross negligence, incompetence, or misconduct in the practice of architecture as determined by the board at a hearing;
- c. A felony or misdemeanor involving moral turpitude by a court of competent jurisdiction;
- d. Practicing architecture in this state in violation of the standards of professional conduct established by the board;
- e. Practicing architecture in this or any other state or country in violation of the laws of that state or country; or
- f. Aiding or abetting any individual, partnership, or corporation to engage in the practice of architecture in violation of any provisions of law.
- (4) Pursuant to subdivision (3), notice of the nature of the charges placed against an architect and the time and place of hearing these charges by the board must be sent to the accused by certified mail, with return receipt requested, and addressed to his or her last known place of business, or residence, not less than 30 days before the date fixed for such hearing. The notice shall inform the individual that he or she is entitled to be represented by counsel of his or her choosing at the hearing, to have witnesses testify in his or her behalf at the hearing, to confront and cross-examine witnesses at the hearing, and to testify in his or her own behalf at the hearing. In all cases of reprimand, administrative fine, refusal, suspension, or revocation of a certificate of registration, or any other disciplinary action of the board, the accused may appeal to the Circuit Court of Montgomery County, Alabama. Either party, the accused or the board, has the right to appeal from the final decree of the circuit court as provided by law.

(Acts 1979, No. 79-676, p. 1198, §5; Acts 1991, No. 91-157, p. 201, §3; Acts 1993, No. 93-614, p. 1006, §1(10); Act 2010-501, p. 796, §1; Act 2010-534, p. 894, §1.)

### **Section 34-2-35** Seal of registrant; purpose; violations.

- (a) Each registrant must obtain a seal of a design authorized by the board bearing the registrant's name, the legend registered architect, the words State of Alabama, and the registrant's license registration number.
- (b) Nothing in this chapter shall prevent a registered architect from being employed by a person, firm, partnership, corporation, or professional corporation.
- (c) Plans, specifications, plates, and reports, and all documents prepared by an architect which are issued by a registrant must be stamped with the seal during the life of a registrant's certificate.
- (d) It shall be unlawful for anyone to stamp or seal any document with the seal after the certificate or the registrant named thereon has expired or been suspended or revoked.

- (e) It shall be unlawful for an architect or any other individual to stamp, to cause to be stamped, or to allow to be stamped any document or documents which were not prepared under the responsible control of the registered architect whose stamp is to be affixed thereon.
- (f) On or after July 22, 1987, it shall be unlawful: (1) to practice architecture in a branch office not under the day-to-day supervision of a registered architect, or (2) for an architect to falsely represent himself or herself as being in responsible control of architectural work or to permit his or her seal, or facsimile thereof, to be used by another for any purpose. Violations shall be penalized as provided in Section 34-2-36.

(Acts 1979, No. 79-676, p. 1198, §6; Acts 1987, No. 87-544, p. 830, §3; Act 2010-501, p. 796, §1; Act 2010-534, p. 894, §1.)

#### **Section 34-2-37** Practice of architecture by certain entities.

- (a) It shall be lawful for a corporation, a professional corporation, a professional association, a partnership, or a limited liability company (the entity) to practice architecture in this state provided that:
- (1) A minimum of two-thirds of those responsible for controlling the activities of the entity, including officers, partners, directors, members, and others depending on the legal structure of the entity, are voting stockholders who are architects or professional engineers, or both, registered under the laws of any United States jurisdiction and at least one is an architect registered in Alabama.
- (2) Any agreement to perform such services shall be executed on behalf of the entity by a stockholding officer, partner, director, or member with authority to contractually bind the entity, who is an architect registered in the State of Alabama.
- (3) A stockholding officer, partner, director, or member who is an architect registered in the State of Alabama shall exercise responsible control over the particular services contracted for by the entity and that architect's name and seal shall appear on all documents prepared by the entity in its practice of architecture.
- (4) Other officers, partners, directors, or members shall not direct the professional judgment of the architect in responsible control over the practice of architecture by the entity.
- (5) The entity shall furnish the board with such information about its organization and activities as the board shall require by rule and pay an annual administrative fee as the board may require, not to exceed two hundred fifty dollars (\$250). The board shall maintain a public roster of such entities.
- (b) All corporations, professional corporations, professional associations, partnerships, and limited liability companies (entities) practicing architecture in the State of Alabama shall fully comply with the above requirements by July 1, 2012.
- (c) Applications to practice as an entity described in subsection (b) shall be made on an annual basis. Disciplinary action for the entities shall be the same as for registered architects. Approved entities shall be responsible for the acts of their agents, employees, general partners, directors, or officers.

(Acts 1979, No. 79-676, p. 1198, §8; Act 2010-501, p. 796, §1; Act 2010-534, p. 894, §1.)

#### Section 34-2-36 Penalties; hearing; enforcement; appeal.

(a) On or after April 28, 1999, any person who knowingly, willfully, or intentionally violates any provision of this chapter shall be guilty of a Class A misdemeanor. Each day of violation shall constitute a distinct and separate offense.

- (b) When it appears to the board that any person is violating any of the provisions of this chapter, the board may in its own name bring an action in the circuit court for an injunction, and the court may enjoin any person from violating this chapter regardless of whether the proceedings have been or may be instituted before the board or whether criminal proceedings have been or may be instituted.
- (c) In addition to any other provisions of law, the board may enter an order assessing a civil penalty against any nonregistered person, corporation, or other entity found guilty by the board of, but not limited to, the following violations of this chapter:
- (1) Engaging in the practice or offer to practice architecture in this jurisdiction without being registered in accordance with this chapter.
- (2) Using or employing the words architect, architecture, or any modification or derivative thereof in its name or form of business activity, except as authorized in this chapter.
- (3) Presenting to the board or a member of the board or attempting to use the certificate of registration or the seal of another registered architect to obtain or attempt to obtain a certificate of registration.
- (4) Giving false or forged evidence of any kind to the board or a member of the board in obtaining or attempting to obtain a certificate of registration.
- (5) Falsely impersonating another registered architect of like or different name.
- (6) Using or attempting to use a revoked or nonexistent certificate of registration.
- (7) Directing the professional judgment of a registered architect who is responsible for the practice of architecture.
- (d) The board shall determine the amount of the civil penalty which shall not exceed five thousand dollars (\$5,000) for each day the violation continues and shall not be greater than twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) total per violation.
- (e) Before issuing an order under this section, the board shall provide the person written notice and the opportunity to request, within 30 days of the notice by the board, a hearing on the record.
- (f) Pursuant to the proceedings under this section, the board may issue subpoenas to compel the attendance and testimony of witnesses and disclosure of evidence and may request the Attorney General to bring an action to enforce a subpoena.
- (g) A person aggrieved by the levy of a civil penalty under this section may file an appeal to the Circuit Court of Montgomery County exclusively for judicial review of the penalty within 30 days, notwithstanding the Administrative Procedure Act. Unless an appeal is taken or the penalty paid, the order of the board imposing the civil penalty shall become a judgment.
- (h) If a person fails to pay a civil penalty within 30 days after entry of an order pursuant to subsection (c) or if the order is stayed pending an appeal, within 10 days after the court enters a final judgment in favor of the board of an order appealed pursuant to subsection (g), the board shall notify the Attorney General. The Attorney General may commence a civil action to recover the amount of the penalty plus attorney's fees and costs.
- (i) The cost to the board of the action shall be paid by the respondent if found in violation. (Acts 1979, No. 79-676, p. 1198, §7, Act 99-159, p. 216, §3; Act 2010-501, p. 796, §1; Act 2010-534, p. 894, §1.)

#### Section 34-2-38 Board for Registration of Architects - Creation; composition.

To carry out the provisions of this chapter, there shall be a State Board for Registration of Architects, consisting of six members, each of whom shall be appointed by the Governor from a list of three persons selected as follows:

- (1) All appointments as members of the board shall be architects registered and licensed pursuant to this chapter. The board shall be appointed from the following districts: One from the northern district; two from the north central district; two from the central district, and one from the southern district. The northern district shall be comprised of the Counties of Colbert, Cullman, DeKalb, Franklin, Jackson, Lauderdale, Lawrence, Limestone, Madison, Marion, Marshall, Morgan, and Winston; the north central district shall be comprised of the Counties of Bibb, Blount, Calhoun, Cherokee, Clay, Cleburne, Etowah, Fayette, Greene, Hale, Jefferson, Lamar, Pickens, Randolph, Shelby, St. Clair, Sumter, Talladega, Tuscaloosa, and Walker; the central district shall be comprised of the Counties of Autauga, Barbour, Bullock, Butler, Chambers, Chilton, Coffee, Coosa, Covington, Crenshaw, Dale, Dallas, Elmore, Geneva, Henry, Houston, Lee, Lowndes, Macon, Marengo, Montgomery, Perry, Pike, Russell, Tallapoosa, and Wilcox; and the southern district shall be comprised of the Counties of Baldwin, Choctaw, Clarke, Conecuh, Escambia, Mobile, Monroe, and Washington.
- (2) Thirty days before the expiration of a board member's term, or for filling a vacancy otherwise occurring, a nominating committee of six members shall be selected by secret ballot from the district entitled to fill the vacancy. The nominating committee shall be elected at a meeting in the district called by the executive director of the board, who shall give notice in writing of the time and place of the called meeting to each architect in the district at least 30 days in advance of the date set for the meeting. Those architects present at the called meeting may vote on the membership of the nominating committee. After the selection of the nominating committee from the district where the vacancy occurs, there shall be a meeting of the committee with the board at the same place within five days to select, by secret ballot, the names of three persons to be sent to the Governor by the executive director of the board. The Governor shall appoint one of the named persons to the board. In appointing members to the board, the Governor shall select those persons whose appointments, to the extent possible, ensure that the membership of the board is inclusive and reflects the racial, gender, geographic, urban/rural, and economic diversity of the state.
- (3) The term of office of the members of the board shall be four years and until their successors are appointed and qualified.
- (4) A member shall reside and have his or her principal office in the district from which appointed. A member's place on the board shall become vacant if the member removes either his or her residence or principal office from that district.

(Acts 1979, No. 79-676, p. 1198, §9; Act 2003-139, p. 437, §3; Act 2010-501, p. 796, §1; Act 2010-534, p. 894, §1.)

# <u>Section 34-2-39</u> Board for Registration of Architects - Certificates; powers and duties; seals; bylaws; rules and regulations.

- (a) Each member of the board shall receive a certificate of appointment from the Governor. Before beginning his or her term of office, each member of the board shall file with the Secretary of State the constitutional oath of office.
- (b) The board, or any committee thereof, shall be entitled to the services of the Attorney General in connection with the affairs of the board, and the board shall have the power to compel attendance of witnesses, to require production of documents, to administer oaths, and to take testimony and proof concerning all matters within its jurisdiction.
- (c) The board shall adopt and have an official seal which shall be affixed to all certificates of registration granted.
- (d) The board shall have power and authority to make and adopt bylaws, rules and regulations consistent with the provisions of this chapter and pursuant to the state administrative procedure law in order to comply with the provisions of this chapter and to establish standards of professional conduct of architects.
- (e) The board shall adopt a program of continuing education not later than October 1, 1993, in order to insure that all registered architects remain informed of those technical and professional subjects which the board deems appropriate to professional architectural practice. The board may by regulation describe the methods by which the requirements of such program may be satisfied. Failure to meet such requirements of continuing education shall result in nonrenewal of an architect's certificate of registration.

(Acts 1979, No. 79-676, p. 1198, §10; Acts 1991, No. 91-157, p. 201, §3.)

# <u>Section 34-2-40</u> Board for Registration of Architects - Meetings; officers; employees; compensation; quorum.

- (a) The board shall hold at least four regular meetings each year.
- (b) The board shall elect annually a chairman and vice chairman who must be members of the board. The board may employ an executive director, clerks, experts, attorneys, and others, as may be necessary in the carrying out of the provisions of this chapter.
- (c) The board shall have the power, with the approval of the Governor, to fix the compensation of the executive director and other employees.
- (d) A quorum of the board shall consist of not less than a majority of the duly appointed board members.

(Acts 1979, No. 79-676, p. 1198, §11; Acts 1987, No. 87-544, p. 830, §3; Acts 1991, No. 91-157, p. 201, §3; Act 2010-501, p. 796, §1; Act 2010-534, p. 894, §1.)

# <u>Section 34-2-41</u> Fund of the Board for the Registration of Architects; compensation of members; expenses; bond.

The executive director of the board shall receive and account for all moneys derived from the operation of this chapter. Such moneys shall be certified into the treasury in a fund to be known as the Fund of the Board for the Registration of Architects. Such fund shall be drawn against only for the purposes of this chapter.

The fiscal year shall commence on the first day of October and end on the thirtieth day of September.

Each member of the board shall receive a per diem as recommended by the board consistent with applicable state laws for attending sessions of the board or its committee, and for the time

spent in necessary travel to attend meetings of the board or its committee. In addition, each member of the board shall be reimbursed for traveling and clerical expenses incurred in carrying out the provisions of this chapter.

Expenses certified by the board as properly and necessarily incurred in the discharge of its duties, including, but limited to, authorized compensations, additional legal services, experts, clerks, office rent, and supplies, shall be paid out of the fund on the warrant of the Comptroller of the state. Such warrant shall be issued on requisitions signed by the chairman and executive director of the board. At no time in any fiscal year shall the total amount of warrants issued exceed the total amount of moneys accumulated in this fund.

The board may make donations from its surplus funds to any state educational institution which has an accredited school of architecture for assistance in promoting education and research programs in architecture.

The chairman and the executive director of the board shall give a surety bond in an amount no less than the previous year's budget payable to the State of Alabama and conditioned upon the faithful performance of their duties under this chapter. The premium of the bond shall be paid out of the moneys in the Fund of the Board for the Registration of Architects.

(Acts 1979, No. 79-676, p. 1198, §12; Act 2010-501, p. 796, §1; Act 2010-534, p. 894, §1.)

#### Section 34-2-42 Annual report.

On or before January 1 of each year, the board shall submit to the Governor a report of its transactions for the preceding fiscal year, together with a complete statement of receipts and disbursements of the board for its last fiscal year, certified by the chairman and the executive director.

(Acts 1979, No. 79-676, p. 1198, §13; Acts 1982, No. 82-147, p. 175, §4; Act 2010-501, p. 796, §1; Act 2010-534, p. 894, §1.)

# **Professional Services by Vendor**

Computer Support	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021
Data Processing				
Office of Information Technology	\$ 3,284.70	\$ 3,272.05	\$ 25,248.15	\$ 8,438.01
Department of Finance	9,392.68	-	-	-
SBS Billing				
Department of Finance	-	660.00	523.00	760.00
IT Planning and Oversight				
Office of Information Technology	190.70	228.84	210.28	205.92
Department of Finance	35.00	_	_	-
FMRS				
Department of Finance	202.30	_	-	-
Total Computer Support	13,105.38	4,160.89	25,981.43	9,403.93
Legal Services				
Attorney General's Office	12,240.00	3,405.00	3,570.00	150.00
Administrative Services				
Advertising				
Legislative Services Agency	600.00	150.00	-	390.00
Education/Training Consultant	S			
AL Assoc. of Regulatory Boards	2,000.00	900.00	-	-
AL Society of Certified Public				
Mgr.	35.00	-	-	-
Fed. Of Assoc. Regulatory Boards	1,700.00	-	-	-
Natl. Council Of Arch. Reg. Bd.	450.00	-	-	-
Nat. Property Mgmt. Assn Capitol				
City Chapter	-	90.00	-	-
Collection Services				
Alabama Interactive LLC	_	_	_	420.00
Information and Research				
Service				
US Dept of Homeland Security	125.00	100.00	50.00	100.00
ALRRS, LLC	499.00	499.00	499.00	-
Mailing Services				
Department of Finance	110.35	65.05	25.75	55.45

Imaging Services				
Business Systems & Consultants	-	-	-	2,216.52
Moving Services				
Copy Products Company	75.00	-	-	-
Comptroller Services				
Department of Finance	1,282.66	1,443.23	2,290.56	2,566.72
Interfund Contract Programs				
Department of Finance	9,000.00	-	-	-
Legislative Services Agency	100.00	100.00	-	200.00
Personnel Services				
Personnel Department	1,430.00	1,472.00	1,486.00	1,506.00
<b>Total Administratvie Services</b>	17,407.01	4,819.28	4,351.31	7,454.69
<b>Total Professional Services</b>	\$42,752.39	\$12,385.17	\$ 33,902.74	\$17,008.62

# Test Divisions Pass Percentages by Educational Institutions

Auburn University	2018	2019	2020	2021
Construction & Evaluation	82%	77%	81%	73%
Practice Management	58%	58%	54%	58%
Programming and Analysis	80%	61%	58%	63%
Project Development &				
Documentation	51%	48%	69%	45%
Project Management	60%	66%	74%	63%
Project Planning & Design	49%	45%	60%	45%

Tuskegee University	2018	2019	2020	2021
Construction & Evaluation	60%	40%	100%	31%
Practice Management	25%	15%	22%	16%
Programming and Analysis	13%	20%	9%	26%
Project Development &				
Documentation	33%	20%	0%	29%
Project Management	44%	33%	11%	29%
Project Planning & Design	33%	22%	0%	20%

# **Board Members**



www.boa.alabama.gov

January 13, 2022

Mr. Gerald Dedon

Examiner of Public Accounts

Examiners of Public Accounts

401 Adams Avenue, Suite 280

Montgomery, AL 36104

Dear Mr. Dedon:

I am writing as requested to provide the Board member information for our Sunset Review Audit. Please see below listing.

#### Michael L. Chapman, Chair

Huntsville, AL

Term Expiration Date: 07/18/2024

#### Nolanda Hatcher, Vice-Chair

Birmingham, AL

Term Expiration Date: 07/18/2024

#### Daniel D. Bennett, Member

Auburn, AL

Term Expiration Date: 09/08/23

# Emily Coe, Member

Birmingham, AL

Term Expiration Date: 12/14/2022

## Sted McCullough, Member

Orange Beach, AL

Term Expiration Date: 07/18/2024

## Jim H. Seay, Jr., Member

Montgomery, AL

Term Expiration Date: 01/02/2023

If any further information is needed for this requested item, please advise. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Executive Director